Claims:

 Process for the production of compounds having the general formula (I)

$$X$$
 $COOR^2$
(I)

5

wherein

X is H or a group having an electron-attracting effect,

 R^1 or R^2 are mutually independently H, (C_1-C_8) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_8) alkyl (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl)₁₋₃, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, (C_2-C_8) alkynyl, (C_6-C_{18}) aryl, (C_7-C_{19}) aralkyl radical, (C_6-C_{18}) aryl $((C_1-C_8)$ alkyl)₁₋₃, by reacting compounds having the general formula (II)

15

10

wherein

Y represents a nucleofugal leaving group, with compounds having the general formula (III)

20

$$R^{1}$$
O $COOR_2$ (III)

wherein

 ${\ensuremath{R}}^1, \ {\ensuremath{R}}^2$ and X can assume the meaning stated above, under basic conditions.

- Process according to claim 1, characterised in that R¹ and/or R² is H or (C₁-C₀) alkyl, Y is a radical selected from the group containing OH, Cl, Br, OTs, OAc, OCOCF₃, OMs, X is a radical selected from the group containing H, CCl₃, CN, COOR¹, COR¹, COCOOR¹.
 - 3. Process according to claim 1 and/or 2, characterised in that
- the reaction is performed in solvents selected from the group containing (C_1-C_8) alkyl alcohols, NMP, DMPU, DMF, DMSO, sulfolane, THF, MTBE, CH₃CN.
 - 4. Process according to one or more of the preceding claims,
- characterised in that compounds selected from the group containing (C_1-C_8) alkyl alkoxides, Et_3N , DBU, DBN, TMG, pentamethyl guanidine, diisopropyl ethylamine, phosphazenes are used as base.